

SENATE BILL 432
By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to ethics course for general assembly members.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

3-1-115.

(a) Newly elected or appointed members of the general assembly shall attend a four (4) hour ethics training course. Such course shall outline rules of order and ethics rules of the general assembly, campaign finance laws and the civil and criminal ramifications of not following such laws and rules. The course shall take place between the general election day and the first day of each legislative session.

(b) The leaders of the senate and house democratic caucus shall jointly appoint one (1) individual to conduct the training course described in subsection (a). The leaders of the senate and house republican caucus shall jointly appoint one (1) individual to conduct the training course described in subsection (a). Such individuals shall be current or former members of the general assembly, attorneys or other persons with knowledge of acceptable ethical standards relating to elected officials. The two (2) instructors shall jointly conduct the ethics training course.

(c) The ethics training course shall be recorded by video or other digital means by either the clerk of the senate or the clerk of the house. If any member of the general assembly is unable to attend the scheduled training session, such member is required to view a recording of the entire course prior to the first day of the legislative session.

(d) Each member required to attend the ethics training course shall sign a form verifying completion of the course and verifying that such member has a general understanding of the material from the course. The instructors shall also sign the forms of the members attending the ethics training course. Such forms shall then be given to the speaker of the member's respective house.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.